

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A rental estimation method through which rental information with regard to rental devices is provided to a customer through a data exchange between a terminal of the customer and a management server of a rental company, ~~comprising the acts of~~ wherein:

the management server comprises:

a first database in which work contents are stored in hierarchical layers of a major division, a division and a sub-division, and in which a list of a plurality of necessary devices corresponding to each work content is stored;

a second database in which rental information with regard to rental devices is stored; and

a third database in which specification information with regard to the rental devices is stored,

the rental estimation method comprising:

displaying the work contents arranged in the hierarchical layers of the major division, the division and the sub-division on the customer terminal;

~~entering work content data indicating a work content through~~
receiving a selection of a desired work content from the work contents displayed
on the customer terminal; and

reading out a list of a plurality of necessary devices matching the
selected work content and rental information corresponding to the listed
necessary devices from ~~a predefined~~ the first database and the second database
and ~~for reporting the read out list of necessary devices and rental information~~
~~providing them~~ to the customer;

receiving a selection of a device to be rented from the reported list of
the necessary devices; and

allowing a device other than a device in the list of necessary devices
to be added as a device to be rented.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A rental estimation method according to claim
[[2]] 1, further comprising the acts of:

~~adding a device other than the necessary devices for rental;~~
making a rental reservation for renting the device selected through the
device selection and the device added through the device addition; and
accepting the reservation thus made.

5. (Currently Amended) A rental estimation system comprising:

a first database in which work contents are stored in hierarchical layers of a major division, a division and a sub-division, and in which list of a plurality of necessary devices matching a work content is stored;

a second database in which rental information for rental devices is stored;

a third database in which specification information for the rental devices is stored;

a display device that displays the work contents arranged in the hierarchical layers of the major division, the division and the sub-division;

a data input device through which data are entered by a rental customer selects a desired work content from the work contents displayed on the display device;

~~a work content management database in which a list of necessary devices each corresponding to a work content is stored;~~

~~a stock management database in which rental information with regard to the necessary devices is stored;~~

a rental management server that reads out a list of a plurality of necessary devices matching [[a]] the work content selected through the data input device and rental information with regard to the necessary devices from ~~the work content management database and the stock management database in response to input of data of a work content through the data input device first database and the second database;~~ and

a reporting device that provides the information read out by the rental management server to a customer,

wherein the data input device operates to select a device to be rented from the list of the necessary devices reported by the reporting device, and allows a device other than the necessary devices to be added as a device to be rented.

6. (Currently Amended) A rental estimation system according to claim 5, wherein:

the data input device further allows an entry of data indicating a rental period; and

the rental estimation system further comprises a rental period adjustment device that adjusts a rental period entered and set through the data input device individually in correspondence ~~[[to]]~~ with each of the necessary devices.

7. (Currently Amended) A rental estimation system according to claim 5, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a device management database in which specification information relating to specifications of the necessary devices is stored, wherein:~~

as a predefined detailed information display command is entered through the data input device, the rental management server reads out specification information corresponding to the necessary device from the ~~device management~~ third database and provides the specification information to a customer.

8. (Currently Amended) A rental estimation system according to claim 7, wherein:

necessary devices used in a given application are grouped together and groups of necessary devices are stored in the ~~device-management~~ third database; and

the rental estimation system further comprises a device switching device that selectively switches the necessary device to a device in a matching group when a predefined input is made through the data input device.

9. (Currently Amended) A rental estimation system according to claim 8, further comprising:

an adding device that sets an additional necessary device selected from the ~~device-management~~ third database in response to a predefined device add command inputted through the data input device.

10. (Currently Amended) A rental information acquisition terminal for devices used in construction work, comprising:

an input device that enters a work content of the construction work as prompted in a screen brought up on display;

a recognition device that recognizes the work content entered via the screen brought up on display;

a transmission device that transmits the recognized work content to a server;

a reception device that receives information indicating a plurality of types of devices matching the work content and rental information related to the devices, which are searched at the server based upon the work content; and

a display device that displays a screen in which the work content ~~are~~ is entered and that brings up a display of the information indicating the plurality of types of devices and their rental information that have ~~having~~ been received.

11. (Currently Amended) A rental information acquisition program product for exchanging information related to a rental product between a customer terminal and a server connected through a communication circuit, the rental product being a rental device for use in construction work, the program product comprising computer-executable steps of:

generating and displaying a screen in which a work content of the construction work is entered;

recognizing the work content entered in the screen brought up on display;

transmitting the recognized work content to the server;

receiving information indicating a plurality of types of devices matching the work content and rental information related to the devices, which are searched based upon the transmitted work content; and

generating and displaying a screen displaying the information indicating the devices and the rental information that have ~~having~~ been received.

12. (Currently Amended) A rental information acquisition server for devices used in construction work, comprising:

a database in which information indicating at least a plurality of types of devices and rental information corresponding to the devices are stored in memory in correspondence to a work content of the construction work;

a recognition device that recognizes a work content transmitted from a terminal;

a search device that searches the database based upon the recognized work content to obtain information indicating a plurality of types of devices and rental information related to the devices in correspondence to the recognized work content; and

a transmission device that transmits the information indicating the devices and the rental information thus obtained to the terminal.